

forms may be printed upon separate ballots, or both thereof may be printed upon one ballot containing squares opposite the affirmative and negative forms, in one of which squares the voter may make a cross (x) mark.

**Returns.** SEC. 3. At the close of the polls the election officers shall count the votes and make returns thereof to the Board of County Commissioners, which board shall, as soon as practicable after the election, judicially pass upon the returns and judicially determine and declare the results of such election, which determination shall be spread upon the minutes of said board. The returns shall be made in duplicate, one copy of which shall be delivered to the Board of County Commissioners as aforesaid and the other filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Iredell County. The election officers shall incorporate in the returns not only the number of votes cast for and against the question, but also the number of voters registered and qualified to vote at the election, and the Board of County Commissioners shall include in their canvass not only the number of votes cast for and against the question, but also the number of voters registered and qualified to vote at the election. The Board of County Commissioners shall prepare a statement showing the number of votes cast for and against the question, and the number of voters registered and qualified to vote at the election, and declaring the result of the election, which statement shall be signed by the chairman of the board and attested by the clerk, who shall record it in the minutes of the board and file the original in his office and publish it once in a newspaper published or circulating in the county.

**Statement of results by county commissioners.**

**Publication.**

**Time limit on actions to contest validity of election, etc.**

SEC. 4. No right of action or defense founded upon the invalidity of such election or the invalidity of any proceedings or steps taken hereunder shall be asserted, nor shall the validity of such election or the validity of the assumption of such bonded indebtedness of such district, or the right or duty to levy a sufficient tax for the payment of the principal and interest of such bonds, be open to question in any court upon any ground whatever, except in an action or proceeding commenced within thirty days after the publication of such statement of results as provided in the preceding section.

**Assumption of indebtedness authorized in event of majority vote therefor.**

SEC. 5. If a majority of the qualified voters of Iredell County shall vote in favor of assuming and taking over the bonded indebtedness of the school district described in the petition and the levy of such tax, then the Board of County Commissioners shall provide by appropriate resolution, which resolution may be finally passed at the same meeting at which it is introduced, for the assumption and taking over of the bonded indebtedness of such school district,